federal register

Monday
March 10, 1980

Part IV

Department of Transportation

Urban Mass Transportation Administration

Accessibility of Rail Systems to the Handicapped; Rail Retrofit Reports

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Urban Mass Transportation Administration

[Docket No. 80-F]

Rail Retrofit Reports

AGENCY: Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Solicitation of comments on rail accessibility from organizations representing handicapped persons.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the availability of Rail Retrofit Reports (including operator cost estimates, operator comments, and related documents) and establishes a 90 day comment period for the receipt of comments by organizations representing handicapped persons as required by Section 321(a) of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978 (STAA).

DATES: The comment period will begin on March 17, 1980 and will close on June 16, 1980.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be submitted to Lawrence L. Schulman, Office of Policy, Budget, and Program Development, Room 9311, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. All comments received will be available for examination in room 9311, at the above address between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Throughout the 90 day comment period operators of fixed guideway public mass transportation systems must make a copy of the report for their systems and any other systems in the same metropolitan area available at their offices for review by interested persons during the hours listed below. Copies of the Reports and related documents, will also be available for inspection at additional locations listed below, except where otherwise indicated. The operators will also make available a complete set of all operators' comments on the desirability of making the systems accessible. In addition, the Urban Mass Transportation (UMTA) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) is preparing a National Summary Report and area-wide summary cost tables of all affected rail systems within the same metropolitan area. It is intended that these additional materials will be available at the operators' offices at the start of the comment period, but in no event later than April 1, 1980.

UMTA regional offices serving affected rail cities will have available from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, the Reports for each affected rail system in each metropolitan area of the UMTA region. The regional offices will also have an area-wide summary cost table for all affected rail systems within each metropolitan area of the UMTA region, the National Summary Report and a complete set of all operators' comments.

UMTA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. will have a copy of each of the Reports, each of the area-wide summary cost tables, the National Summary Report, and a complete set of operator comments, in addition to the official file of comments submitted by organizations representing handicapped persons and other interested persons.

UMTA will mail a copy of the National Summary Report to those organizations which UMTA has identified as representing the handicapped and to local representative organizations whose names and addresses have been provided by transit operators. Organizations representing handicapped persons wishing to be added to the mailing list or to confirm their inclusion on the list for the National Summary Report should contact: Salvator Caruso, Office of Policy, Budget and Program Development, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Room 9311-G, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 (202) 426-4060.

Persons planning to inspect the documents at UMTA Headquarters are encouraged to make appointments by calling Salvator Caruso at the number listed above. Appointments will facilitate an orderly review process and will ensure that someone is available at UMTA Headquarters to assist individuals reviewing the documents.

The addresses of all UMTA offices maintaining these documents are as follows:

Headquarters

Urban Mass Transportation Administration, 400 7th Street, S.W., Room 9311, Washington, D.C. 20590, Contact: Salvator Caruso, Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Field Offices

UMTA Region I Office, Kendall Square, 55 Broadway, Cambridge, Ma. 02142, (617) 494-2055, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, Massachusetts (Boston).

UMTA Region III Office, Suite 1010, 434 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106, (215) 597-4179, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Pittsburgh), New Jersey (Camden), Maryland.

UMTA Region V Office, Suite 1740, 300 S. Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL. 60606 (312) 353-2789, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, Illinois (Chicago), Indiana, Ohio (Cleveland), Michigan (Detroit).

UMTA Region VI Office, Suite 9A32, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, TX. 76012, (817) 334-3787, Hours: 9:00 am. to 4:00 pm., Monday through Friday, Louisiana (New Orleans).

UMTA Region IX Office, Suite 620, Two Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, Ca. 94111, (415) 556-2884, Hours: 9:00 am. to 4:00 pm., Monday through Friday, California (San Francisco).

In addition, copies of the Reports will be available at the following locations, except those marked with an asterisk (*) where only the commuter and light rail report and related documents will be available and those marked with a double asterisk (**) where only the rapid rail report and related documents will be available.

Baltimore/Washington Area

Maryland Department of Transportation (DOT) *, Baltimore-Washington International Airport, Elm Road, State Railroad Administration Office, BWI Airport, MD. 21240, Contact: Jay Hierholzer, (301) 787-7345, Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Boston Area

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), 50 High Street, Boston, Ma. 02110, Contact: Anthony Kinehan, (617) 722-5123, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Office of Handicapped Affairs, One Ashburton Place, Boston, Ma. 02108, Hours: 9:00 am. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Bridgeport Area

Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) *, c/o Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency, Bridgeport Transportation Center, 525 Water Street, Room 305, Bridgeport, Ct. 06604, Contact: Eric Dreher, (203) 366-5405, Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Chicago Area

Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Merchandise Mart, Room 444, Chicago, Il. 60654, Contact: Jon Roth, (312) 664-7200 Ext. 1248, Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) *, 8149 Kennedy Avenue, Suite D, Highland, In. 46322, Contact: Steven Strains, (219) 923-1060, Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Regional Transportation Autority (RTA), 300 North State Street, Library (Central Files) Room 709, Chicago, Il. 60610, Contact: Jud Lawrie, (312) 836-4120, Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Cleveland Area

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), 1409 E. 9th Street, Cleveland, Oh. 44114, Contact: Linda Greene, (216) 781-5100, Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Cleveland Public Library, 325 Superior Street, Cleveland, Oh. 44114, Hours: Regular Hours.

Detroit Area

Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA)*, First National Building, 660 Woodward Avenue, 13th Floor, Detroit, Mi. 48226, Contact: Julien R. Wolfe, (313) 256-8630, Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT)*, Report will be available at SEMTA Office listed above.

New Orleans Area

New Orleans Public Service Incorporated (NOPSI)*, c/o Office of Transit Administration, City of New Orleans, Union Passenger Terminal Room 221, 1001 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, La. 70113, Contact: William Gustafson, (504) 586-3121, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

New York Area

(All hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday unless otherwise indicated)

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), 347 Madison Avenue, 10th Floor-Library, New York, New York 10017, Contact: Robert Olmsted, (212) 878-7250.

New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA), 370 Jay Street, Library-Room 1118, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH), Journal Square Transportation Center, Manager's Office—First Floor, Jersey City 07306, Contact: Victoria Cross, NY (212) 466-7672, NJ (201) 622-6600, Ext. 7672.

Port Authority, Rail Transportation Department, One World Trade Center, New York, New York 10048.

Tri-State Regional Planning Commission, One World Trade Center—82nd Floor, New York, New York.

Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, N.Y., Room 219—Community Board Planning Room.

County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 207, Bronx, N.Y.

Staten Island Ferry Terminal, St. George, S.E., N.Y., Waiting Room Information & Reference Table.

Dutchess County, County Building, 22 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Second Floor-Record Room, Library, Hours: Regular hours.

Orange County, County Center, 255-75 Main Street, Goshen, N.Y., Motor Vehicle Bureau, Room 214, Hours: Regular hours.

Putnam County, County Office Building, 14 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, New York, Room 100-County Clerk's Office.

Rockland County Office Building, 11 New Hempstead Road, New York City, N.Y., Office of the Legislature.

Westchester County, County Office Building, Martime Avenue, White Plains, N.Y., County Executive's Office.

Nassau County, County Office Building, 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, N.Y., County Clerk's Office.

Suffolk County, State Office Bldg., Veterans Highway, Hauppauge, N.Y., Room 6A14.

Philadelphia Area

(All hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority, Port Authority Transit Corporation, City of Philadelphia, Contact: Robert Corressel, (215) 574-7390.

Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO), Delaware River Port Authority Administration Building, Ben Franklin Bridge Plaza, Camden, New Jersey.

SEPTA Executive Offices, 12 S. 12th Street, 20th Floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

SEPTA Offices, 2nd Floor and Wyoming Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107, City of Philadephia.

Municipal Services Building, Room 1080, 15th and JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Montgomery County Planning Commission**, One Montgomery Plaza, Suite 201, Norristown Borough, Pa.

Bucks County Planning Commission**, Cross Kegs Office Building, Intersection of Routes 313 and 611, Doylestown, Pa.

County Clerk's Office**, Delaware County Court House, Front Street, Media, Pa. 19063, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Chester County Library**, 400 Exxon Square Parkway, Exxon, Pa. 19341, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pittsburgh Area

Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAAC)*, Beaver and Island Avenues, Office of Elderly and Handicapped Programs, 5th Floor, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15233, Contact: Thomas Letky, (412) 237-7280, Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

San Frdncisco Area

San Francisco Municipal Railway*, 949 Presidio Avenue Room 246, San Francisco, Ca. 94115, Contact: Harvey Katz, (915) 558-2335, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission*, City Hall, 400 Van Ness Avenue, Room 287, San Francisco, Ca. 94102, Contact: Nancy Keane, (415) 558-4987, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

United Cerebral Palsy Association,* 814 Mission Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, Ca. 94103, Contact: John King, (415) 543-3135, Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Trenton Area

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT),* Public Transportation Services, Lawrence Shopping Center, Alternate Route 1, and Texas Avenue, Receptionist's Office, Contact: Robert Innocenzi, (609) 292-7320 (Report includes Newark City Subway operated by Transport of New Jersey).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Salvator Caruso, Office of Policy, Budget and Program Development, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, Room 9311-G, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 426-4060.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 321(a) of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act requires that the Secretary of Transportation provide assistance under Section 8 of the Urban Mass Transportation Act, as amended, to operators of fixed guideway public mass transportation systems for the purpose of developing detailed cost estimates for making these systems (rapid, commuter, and light rail) accessible to and usable by handicapped persons.

In addition to developing these estimates, operators of such systems are required to provide comments on the desirability of the improvements, taking into account the projected use of the improvements, the operational characteristics of the system, and such other factors as the operators deem appropriate. The operator cost estimates and comments on desirability are to be submitted to organizations representing handicapped persons who then have 90 days to submit their comments to the Secretary of Transportation. The Secretary is to compile the results of these evaluations and report the results to Congress together with his recommendations for such legislation as may be necessary to finance the improvements set forth in the cost estimates. This latter requirement will necessitate that the Department reach its own conclusion on the cost estimates based upon the operators' estimates and the comments of organizations representing handicapped persons. Although section 321 states that the Secretary is to report to Congress no later than January 30, 1980, the complexity and the magnitude of the project have required additional time. DOT intends to complete and forward the Report to Congress in August 1980.

Section 321(b) of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act requires that the Secretary evaluate light and commuter rail systems to determine ways to make, and the desirability of making these modes accessible to handicapped persons and then to report to Congress the results of his evaluation together with his recommendations for legislation necessary to clarify or to change existing laws affecting light and commuter rail systems.

Study Approach

Because these two efforts are closely related, UMTA made a decision to have one effort concentrate on the cost estimates for rapid rail systems (referred to as the 321(a) study). The second effort (referred to as the 321(b) study) focuses on the feasibility of making light and commuter rail systems accessible, and has produced cost estimates which will be used to fulfill the requirement of section 321(a) for commuter and light rail systems. The two efforts may be

combined in a single Congressional report which will include cost estimates for retrofitting certain existing fixed guideway systems as well as the information regarding light and commuter rail systems called for by section 321(b).

Section 321(a) calls for cost estimates to be prepared by operators. During discussions in March 1979, transit operators indicated to UMTA that they did not have sufficient staff to undertake the study if required to do so entirely on their own. The operators also recognized a need for a greater consistency than was achieved in earlier cost estimating efforts. Consequently, they requested that UMTA provide technical assistance by means of a consultant in addition to direct financial support for their own 321 efforts. The engineering firms of Deleuw, Cather and Ralph Parsons (DC/P) in a joint venture were retained in early June 1979, and have since surveyed all rapid rail stations of the affected systems. Transit operators and organizations representing handicapped persons participated in the development of the Statement of Work which set the direction for the 321(a) contractor's efforts. The firm of Crain and Associates was retained by UMTA to undertake the 321(b) commuter and light rail study. Nearly 3,000 commuter and light rail stations/stops were surveyed along with appropriate vehicle types. Both studies were to be conducted in accordance with Guidelines and Assumptions developed with participation of transit operators, handicapped persons, and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB). One of the purposes of the Guidelines and Assumptions was to provide a consistent basis for estimating the least cost alternative for providing access to rail systems.

In November 1979, operators were sent the draft 321 report(s) for their system(s). The statute requires that operators "* * * shall provide comments on the desirability of the improvements, taking into account projected use of the improvements, the operational characteristics of the system, and such other features as the operators may deem appropriate." The operators were asked to complete their review and submit their comments on desirability by January 18, 1980. After the operators' review, the consultants were requested to make revisions to the data and cost estimates in the reports in accordance with the operators' concerns. Revised reports were mailed to the operators for final review. The final report combined with the operator's comments on desirability constitutes the official Rail Retrofit Report for each system which the statute requires be submitted to organizations representing handicapped persons.

Submission of Report to Organizations Representing Handicapped Persons

Section 321(a) requires that the Report be submitted to organizations representing handicapped persons. These organizations have 90 days to submit their comments to the Secretary of Transportation. The comment period will begin on March 17, 1980, and will close June 16, 1980. Comments may address both the 321(a) reports and the 321(b) reports. While the comment period is specifically aimed at organizations representing handicapped persons, all interested individuals and organizations may submit comments. These additional comments will be considered in the preparation of the Secretary's report to Congress if time permits. All persons and organizations are encouraged to submit their comments as soon as possible after the start of the comment period. Comments may address any aspect of the reports, but comments are specifically invited on the following questions:

(1) Which of the cost estimates presented, in the summary cost tables, if any, appears the most reasonable? Why? Does this estimate meet the criterion of "least cost solution" in accordance with the 321 Study Guidelines and Assumptions?

(2) For the estimate you deem most reasonable, are the conceptual modifications to stations and vehicles adequate and necessary to achieve accessibility? If not adequate, explain what additional changes are necessary. If not necessary, explain what changes could be eliminated.

(3) Are the unit costs which have been utilized reasonable?

(4) Is the methodology for developing the cost estimates appropriate? Specifically, are the values assigned to the cost factors and their application to the unit cost reasonable? Are the allowance for contingency and for planning, design, and construction management reasonable?

(5) What are your reactions to the operators' comments on the desirability of the improvements to make the system accessible?

Because of the complex and technical nature of the material in the Reports, briefings for organizations representing handicapped persons, conducted by the transit operators and the consulting firms which assisted them in the preparation of the Reports, will be held in each of the affected metropolitan areas within the first 30 days of the comment period. A briefing for national organizations representing handicapped persons conducted by the consultants will be held in Washington, D.C. Representatives of handicapped persons will be given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the Reports. At the briefings, the consultants will provide information on how follow-up questions will be received and answered. For those persons who are unable to attend a briefing, this information will be available from Salvator Caruso, at the address listed above.

In addition, a limited amount of direct technical assistance by a consultant will be made available to organizations representing handicapped persons. Details regarding the procedure for applying for this technical assistance will be provided at each of the scheduled briefings. As a condition of receipt of this technical assistance, a representative of each requesting organization must attend at least one of the scheduled briefings. A sign language interpreter for the deaf will be provided at the briefings if a request is submitted to Salvator Caruso at the address listed above, five working days in advance of the briefing.

The schedule and location of the briefings for local organizations representing handicapped persons is as follows:

March 25, 1980

Bridgeport, Ct. (Conn. DOT), Bridgeport Public Library, 925 Broad Street, Bridgeport, Ct. 06604, Time: 1:00 p.m.

March 26, 1980

Jersey City, New Jersey (PATH, NJDOT and Newark City Subway), Journal Square Transportation Center, PATH Plaza, First Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07306, Time: 9:30 a.m.

March 27, 1980

New York, New York (MTA, NYCTA), Tri-State Regional Planning Commission, One World Trade Center, 82nd Floor, New York, New York 10048, Time: 9:30 a.m.

March 28, 1980

Boston, Massachusetts (MBTA), McCormack Building Conference Room, One Ashburton Place, Boston, Ma. 02108, Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

April 1, 1980

Pittsburgh, Pa. (PAAC), Port Authority of Allegheny County, Beaver and Island Avenues, Board Room, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15233, Time: 9:00 a.m.

April 2, 1980

Philadelphia, Pa. (PATCO, SEPTA), SEPTA Executive Offices, 12 S. 12th Street, 20th Floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107, Time: 9:30 a.m.

April 3, 1980

Cleveland, Oh. (GCRTA), Cuyahoga Savings and Loan Association, Community Room, 1 Erieview Plaza, Cleveland, Oh. 44114, Time: 9:30 a.m.

April 10, 1980

Washington, D.C. (MD DOT), U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, S.W., Room 4234, Washington, D.C. 20590, Time: 9:00 a.m.

April 11, 1980

Detroit, Mi. (SEMTA, DDOT), Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority, First National Building, 660 Woodward Avenue, Board Room, 13th Floor, Detroit, Mi. 48226, Time: 10:30 a.m.

April 14, 1980

Chicago, Il. (CTA, RTA, NIRPC), Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, 345 E. Superior Street, Heyworth Room, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Time: 9:30 a.m.

April 15, 1980

New Orleans, La. (NOPSI), City of New Orleans, Office of Transit Administration, Union Passenger Terminal, Assembly Room, 100, Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, La. 70113, Time: 3:00 p.m.

April 17, 1980

San Francisco, Ca. (S.F. Muni.), San Francisco Municipal Railway, 949 Presidio Avenue, Room 220, San Francisco, Ca. 94115, Time: 10:00 a.m.

The briefing for national organizations representing handicapped persons will be held:

April 9, 1980

U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, S.W., Room 2230–32, Washington, D.C. 20590, Time: 9:00 a.m.

Theodore C. Lutz,

Administrator.

March 5, 1980.

[FR Doc. 80-7355 Filed 3-7-80; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-M